28

Amherst (Mss) Dec 7th 1832

Dear Bro P—

It is a long time since I have heard from you except indirectly & as long since you have heard from me. I believe the last communication I made you was when fleeing to N Haven from the face of the Measles — in other words to see my wife. Since then I have heard of your installment at Pine St. & you have heard probably of my dismission from Berlin. Presuming that you take the same interest in my affairs that I do in yours, I will give you a bit of my history & the history of my wife since we saw you & yours at our home in Berlin last winter.

Every thing went on with us as usual with no important change either prosperous or adverse until Emily was sent for in Apl to see her Mother, who was not expected to live but a short time. Mrs F however contrary to our fears, has so far recovered that she is now comfortable & about house. Emily had not been long at home before her health failed, & she has been confined within doors at her fathers most of the summer & fall. I, in the mean time, have been going to & from Ct most of the summer, until I got tired of it, & took a dismission in Oct. Since then, I have been supplying the Third Soc. in New Haven, until two weeks since I received a letter requesting me to supply the pulpit in this place for a few Sabbaths; & here I now am, with

wife at my elbow, whose health since cold weather came on, has rapidly improved, so that there is a prospect that she may soon enjoy her usual health. On my way from Ct to Berlin, I went by request by way of Greenfield, where I spent a couple of weeks. The Church in that place have since voted unanimously to give me a call to settle with them. The Society subsequently voted to concur with the Church, but were backed by an opposition of four individuals - the grounds of which I have not learned. They are at present in commotion there, & what the result will be, it is impossible to foresee. It is not probable however that I shall settle there. I am preaching here only as a temporary supply - Mr Washburn the pastor of this Church is out of health & there is little hope of his recovery. Some of this society are for going right forward & settling another minister without delay - Some are for living during the winter, & a great many do not know what they want. A few are resolved at all events to keep out Taylorism, & are bent upon obtaining the Rev Mr Vaill of Greenfield; & some would like a man from N. Haven. Among all these conflicting opinions it is not probable that they will settle any one - at least while Mr Washburn lives. I shall remain here two or three Sabbaths more, & then return to New Haven & attend Dr T - lectures during the winter. I probably supply the Third Society agreeably to an arrangement made before I came to this place, unless they procure a stated supply

for the winter during my absence. You have probably heard of Mr Boardmans destruction from them, which took place about 3 mos since. They are now waiting patiently for a meeting of the Corporation of G College in the Spring, when they intend to unite with them in presenting a call to Dr Skinner of Phila to come & sustain the double relation of Pastor & Professor &c

You see that I am again upon the wide waters, waiting for some propitious gale to waft me to a haven, where I may be useful & happy. Whether I shall be thus favored, or whether I shall be the sport of storms & tempests, & at length dashed upon the rocks to punish me for my rashness for again putting my bark to sea, is known only to Him who holds in his fist the winds & the waves of the moral, as well as the natural world. If I should not spend the winter in New Haven, I should like to spend some part of it at least in Boston. Is there any employment for me in B- or vicinity by which I might pay my way should I think it expedient to come on in the course of a few weeks? Will you be so kind as to write to me before I leave Amherst, & tell me all about your affairs, public & domestic? You must write soon however, or I shall not get your letter, as I may not remain here longer than the first of week after next. My wife joins with me in kindly love to you & yours

With much affection I remain your Brother

A. C. Baldwin

A. C. Baldwin

Amherst Dec 7th 1832.